THE
WRESTLING FLYER
NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 283, Wallingford, PA 19086

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INTERVIEW
MADUSA

JC: How did you first get started in professional wrestling?

MM: I started back in '84. I was a nurse before wrestling. I met an old girlfriend on a beach in Minneapolis, a beach bar. We were just playing volleyball and I ran into her and she introduced me to her friend, which was her boyfriend. He told me that I would be good in athletics and I was always a big jock through high school in track and gymnastics, etc. I actually thought he was coming on to me in front of my girlfriend so I thought he was like a real big jerk. And he said, "Want to try wrestling?" I thought he thought mud wrestling or jello or something so I just kind of blew him off. Anyway, my girlfriend kept on calling me and so finally I went over there and met him. He's a Hollywood stunt coordinator and he said he had a friend there in Minneapolis, who was Eddie Sharkey. He introduced me to Ed Sharkey and two weeks later, I was in Ed's wrestling camp. I quit my nursing job two weeks after and I never looked back. I did some hardcore wrestling with Eddie and some of the boys there. The guys that were there were really good and had a lot of collegiate and high school wrestling. And I learned it from them and I can't even remember their names now, the guys aren't around. Then I did a lot of amateur stuff with Brad Rheigans from Minneapolis, where he has a wrestling school. So I mainly just wrestled with all men for years. I did a lot of five state areas with Ed Sharkey, I made $15 a pop, and drive 300 miles. Before, I was set. I had a nice job, had a car, a nice condo, and had a nice bi-weekly check. I gave it all up and went into debt for the first couple years of wrestling, before '85, '86. I guess Ed Sharkey owed my friend a favor so I didn't have to pay that much for school. But, Ed Sharkey even took a percentage off my $15 I made each night. Get a load of that. I think that's why they called him "Shark." But, I wasn't greedy. I figured I didn't have to come up with some big lump sum of money or anything. So I was doing that for a couple years, making $15, $20, sometimes I even got up to as much as $50. I thought that was great. Then, I got my big break in the AWA with Verne. And when I made my first payoff of $125, I was astatic. Then Sherri Martel and I did a loop for a good year or so, a good year and a half. Then, I won the AWA Women's title and she went off to New York (WWF). I stayed for awhile and then I felt stifled, I really did. I just couldn't feel myself growing and this business has- especially back then and even now it is really getting away from, a little bit, but not much- always been a man's egotistical business. And for a woman to get a big break they're always knocked down. Unless if a woman does make it, she doesn't really say anything on TV anyway. A good example of that is Elizabeth. And I would say that a handful of women have really opened the door for other women in management in wrestling. And that is Elizabeth. Sherri. Wendi Richter really could have done well in New York, I believe. Whatever happened up there, I don't know what it was exactly, I heard all different types of stories, but I feel that if that would have went on, I really believe it could have been something for the women. But again women were stopped, just kind of cut. But in the AWA, I felt really stifled and I wanted to grow. I wasn't growing, I was just wrestling and then I started managing Curt Hennig and Kevin Kelly, who is Nailz now. I wanted more, I just wanted to grow, I wasn't greedy. I felt myself growing and I was still in a small place. So I gave Verne- without even know where I was going- my notice, my two month notice. When it was coming up to my last month, all of a sudden, I got a call from Japan, which was really cool. That was in '88, '89. And being intrigued as I was- the only thing I ever saw or heard about Japanese wrestling was that they brutal and they broke bones and it was pretty legit, it was shoot. That encouraged me even more to go. My style is very... solid- I'll round it off with a good word- and believable. Meaning that I wrestle. So there's nothing else but to believe in it. So, I went over there intermittently for the first few times, a couple weeks at a time. I just really loved it over there and there wasn't anything here in America for women's wrestling, as I saw it really going downhill and really staying stagnant for awhile.

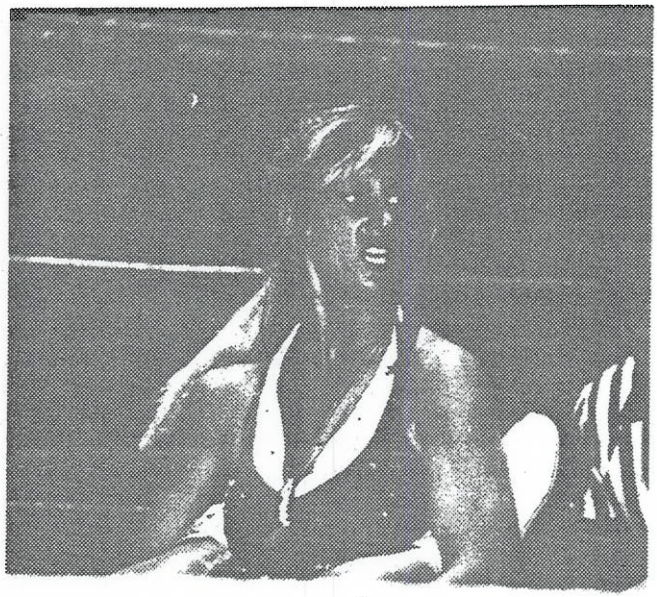
I went there and finally, they asked me to sign a contract, which they had never done with a female wrestler before. That was the first time in history so it was really neat. And I kind of made history and opened the door for other female wrestlers which are now starting to go over there. All-Japan Women's Pro Wrestling is #1 over there. They've been there the longest as far as any man's wrestling and they're very hardcore. I'll always have that close relationship with the Japanese. Once you gain their trust and their faith, they always have their door open for you. I mean if I was in trouble over here in the United States, someone would help me from over there. It's really nice. But, it takes years to gain that, you've really got to prove yourself everyday- where a person would become lethargic here and they just get fed up and they just say, "Forget it," then they'd get real lazy. There, you've got to have that attitude of get up and go every single day. Now that I've opened doors for other women over there, there's a few that have been there- come and gone and come and gone- and no one's really stayed there like I did for a good two years that I did. But at least they're giving other women a chance, and that's what I'd like to see. I mean, if I'm just a door opener all the way through wrestling, if that's all I can be for other women, well, than that is what hopefully I can do. And then WCW, gosh, they really haven't really done much for my wrestling at all. But anyway, from AWA to Japan and I've done a lot of stuff over there. I had my own single CD, had videos, I have an autobiography, and all this other stuff. The opportunity is unlimited over there and they just push you and they're behind you a hundred percent. It felt really good. That's the only place I really got to excel as a woman in this profession. And it's sad that my own country doesn't really stick to one thing. I mean, I just believe if it's done right, women could really go far over here. Anyway, I came back (went to WCW) and kind of mellowed out. I needed a break because working over there for two, two and a half years is like working five years over here. I mellowed out for a month. I did a few spot shows, but I was very limited because I was burnt out a little bit, so I kind of cooled it for a month or so. Then, WCW called me and I went down there for an interview and then they "nabbed" me, so to speak, and I don't mean to brag. I needed to get better established back in the United States because I had been gone so long. But, it didn't take long. I had great opportunities. I did my first wrestling match with WCW near the beginning, and as soon as I did my flying bodypress off the top rope onto the cement floor onto Michael Hayes, they never let me wrestle again. I guess too many people complained, as far as boys and what not. Their thing is that- if a women can wrestle as well as their boys, they probably thought- why should we have this women on there out-showing some of our boys. So that's where it is with WCW.

JC: What is your current contractual relationship with WCW?

MM: They gave me a nice three year contract. But the first year was optional as far as renegotiation. I mean, if WCW wanted to sit down and renegotiate or if I did, it was open to both parties. They didn't, they were just going to let it roll over for the next two years. Grant you, I made great money, I make great money with WCW, but it's just money isn't everything. You hear the boys say to me, "Take the money and just shut up and just do it." And I'm thinking- this was what my problem was in AWA. People would say, "Just take your money and shut up and go." I mean, I just can't, I really can't.

JC: That's great to hear because you seem to care about what you're doing. It's not just for the money.

MM: Oh yeah, I always have from the beginning. I think, too, that the only reason why I've gotten as far as I did is probably believing in such. I mean, I make over six digits, and I just feel stifled again. They're really holding me back in my career. There's so much more I can do. And I want to wrestle. But, full-time here in America, women's wrestling wouldn't go and I admit that. But, if they just had me wrestle intermittently or maybe go to Japan, because Japan has been wanting me to go back this whole year and I never even knew about it until recently. Somebody told me there was a Fax to WCW from All-Japan Women's Wrestling wanting me to come over. That just about blew my top. That was the last straw. And that's what really made me renegotiate my contract and find out what



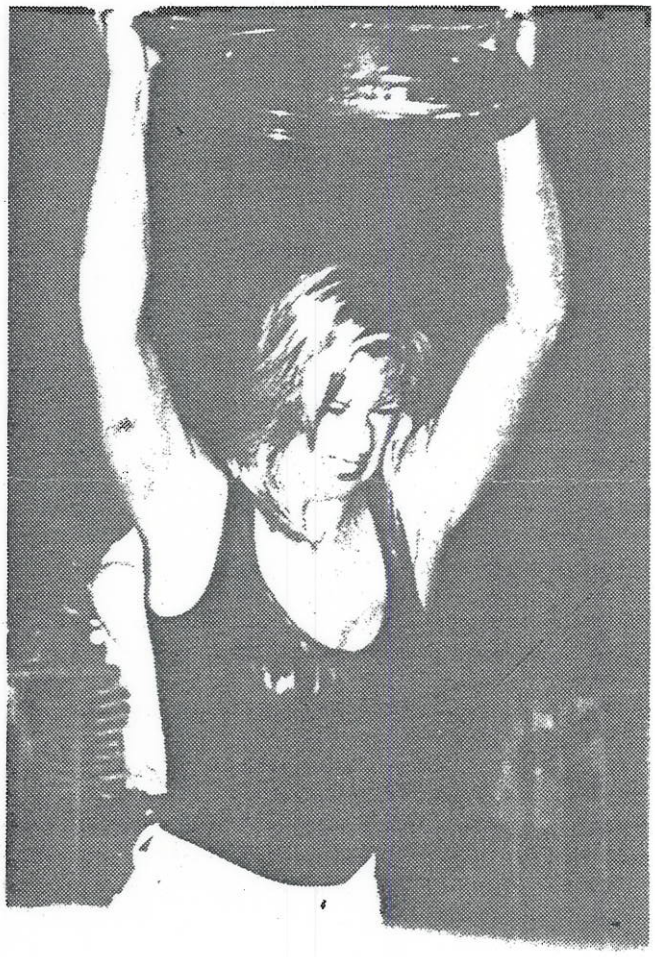
the hell's going on, where Madusa's going, where she's been, what I want, and what the hell are they going to do? Because if I'm just going to hang onto somebody's arm for the next years, I'm going to get real bored. And then, you're going to start sniffing elsewhere. So, I terminated my contract with Watts. And Watts said, "Well, look, if you don't sign my contract, that's fine." And I said, "Well, look, I'll take your contract. You write up a rough draft of what you want and I will look it over and on any questions, we'll renegotiate." I said, "Well, temporarily, I'll work under my old contract, under my old money, under my old terms, until we come to an agreement." And he said, "Fine." In fact, I didn't even ask for more money, Watts even gave me a raise, believe it or not, and I didn't even ask for it. But, you wouldn't believe the stipulations involved. The new contracts involve where they hold money of yours, and I don't go for that.

JC: They hold it until the end of the quarter?

MM: Yeah, it's called a cycle period. He called it a cycle period and he wants to hold money. We don't like those "good girl clauses" type of thing. So, at the end of three months, if Watts doesn't go ballistic, he can decide if he wants to give you the money or not. And I feel that if at the end of three months if Watts is on a PMS syndrome... I mean, it'll scare you shitless if some man's going to keep your money or not. It's bullshit. I couldn't agree with those terms. I had my lawyer come up with a rough draft of my version. So, he (Watts) called me back two days after he said, "Fine, we'll work under the old terms and the old money until we come to terms," and told me, "I'm sorry, you've got to sign my contract by such and such a date or else, that's it." I said, "Okay, fine. Watts, I quit today." He said, "What, you can't quit today," and I said, "I quit. As of January 3, 1993, my contract is terminated. Goodbye." I hung up and then all of a sudden, someone walked in the office, they asked where I was- because I was supposed to be doing all the commercials for Superbrawl, like I did for Halloween Havoc. So, someone asked where I was and they said that I quit because Watts said this and that, and they went off. I got a nice little call from a WCW associate and Bob Dhue and Ole Anderson- and all people probably a little pissed on what's going on in WCW. Even from Sting himself, saying, "Look, if we lose you, this company's going to lose a lot." I never even knew that people really felt that way. It kind of felt good and finally realize where you kind of stand in the company. Cause you're not going to have any man tell you that exactly until, what, you lose a leg or something.

JC: Was there much communication with Watts or others about how they felt about what you were doing?

MM: Well, it was always, "Yeah, yeah, yeah, that's good." You know, something like that. Dusty was real workable. I love Dusty to death. He'd listen to my ideas and we'd put them together and we'd work things out. Dusty believes in me and I think that's what helped me really excel a lot and do as much as I could do with WCW. People have their own views, ideas,



feelings on everybody, but that's life. But, I really believe if WCW keeps losing talent, it's going to be very hard and it's going to be a long time before they get themselves rebuilt. And I can't surround myself in an environment that doesn't believe in me and that won't let me grow because "I'm a woman."

JC: How would describe the atmosphere in WCW amongst all the employees right now?

MM: Very stale.

JC: Is there any motivation amongst everybody?

MM: No. I've heard people that I wouldn't even have thought sit there and complain. I'm not a complainer, I just roll with the punches. But, I hear it coming from guys that are the quiet ones that they're just miserable.

JC: Has the travel had any effects on you?

MM: Oh, no. When I was wrestling in Japan, sometimes we were gone for almost a month and a half. So actually, it (WCW) was

kind of a vacation. And plus, I was around people that spoke my own language. No, I've been doing the travel for about eight years now. Actually, I've been out for about a week or a week and a half, and I feel like I want to bounce off the walls. I'm going crazy, it feels like I've got to get back out there. There's a lot of things that I've got going on. My first love was and always will be wrestling. But, I've got other little survival things, but it's not the same as being out there. Nothing will ever take the place of wrestling.

JC: Where do you think WCW is headed right now?

MM: It's hard to tell because they're having a complete employment shift, all the way from payroll to vice-president of WCW. They have the old coming in as far as the AWA people. They have Bill Dundee in as an agent. Greg Gagne is up in the air. I just see the old format of that AWA situation happening. And then what happened there. That's all I'll say.

JC: Do you really think that could happen?

MM: I don't know. I can't believe anybody staying and working under those terms of a ballistic, him being.

JC: Was your contract different than other male employees?

MM: The only thing different between mine and theirs is that I was under one of the old contracts with the Rick Rudes, the Stings, Madusa, Paul E., and I even think Hyatt had one of the old contracts. So there's only five of us that were still under the good, old contracts that kept us motivated, that kept us wanting to work, that kept us wanting to have new ideas. And I will stipulate that Kip Frey gave out those contracts because WCW was in debt. Kip Frey gave out those contracts because WCW had money to give and to keep us happy. We have to have some type of an incentive. I don't care, the one thing that Watts keeps forgetting is that he keeps trying to be this great facilitator- which he is not, I feel because he gives the whole WCW when he gives us these big lectures and what not, he gives the meetings like he's some big football coach and we're the players. If he's giving those examples, those guys only play how many months out of the year, plus they get paid fully, they get paid ten times as much as we do, and they get all those benefits. So, he's trying to practice as this facilitator, but he's not giving as one.

The preceding interview with Madusa Miceli was conducted by the editor, John Clark, via telephone from Miss Miceli's home near Tampa, Florida on 1/12. The next issue will feature Part II where she discusses subjects involving WCW, the image of women in professional wrestling, the differences between women's wrestling in Japan and the United States, and what she wishes to do in her future. Miss Miceli is still talking with WCW about working out an appropriate contract and she is also exploring other options she may have. We thank her very much for her comments and feelings, and wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION

WWF taped Superstars at the Convention Center in Beaumont, TX on 1/4 which featured Bam Bam Bigelow pinned Big Bossman, Mr. Perfect beat Terry Taylor, Jim Duggan beat Repo Man, Jim Brunzell beat "Wild" Bill Irwin, Yokozuna beat Duggan, Money Inc beat Nasty Boys, Perfect beat Ric Flair with the perfect-plex, Randy Savage beat Shawn Michaels by countout, Bret Hart beat Yokozuna by DQ when Fuji threw salt at Hart, Undertaker beat Razor Ramon by countout. Kamala worked a squash and came out with his new manager Slick. Horace Boulder (legit nephew of Hulk Hogan) was given a tryout and beat Louie Spicollie. Maybe Vince gave him a tryout to try to improve his relationship with Hogan, as Vince desperately still wants Hogan to come back. Also getting a tryout was Scott Putski. The only other important item from the taping was that Sensational Sherri did an interview saying that she thought Marty Janetty was a nice guy, etc, and then she was in his corner when he wrestled a squash match for TV.

The Challenge TV taping was held at the Freeman Coliseum in San Antonio, TX the next night, 1/5. Yokozuna beat Duggan and after the match, Yokozuna splashed Duggan three times and put the American flag over Duggan's body, who was carried out on a stretcher. Other matches saw Tito Santana beat Bill Irwin, Virgil beat Horace Boulder, Scott Putski beat Dusty Wolfe, Bigelow beat Typhoon by countout, Bob Backlund beat Michaels by countout, Money Inc beat Nastys, Undertaker beat Shango, and Bret Hart pinned Ric Flair.

Lance Cassidy (Steve Armstrong) informed the offices that he was leaving the WWF on 1/8 after working his last show the night before in Edinburg, TX. He flew home on 1/8 instead of working the show that night in Pittsburgh, PA where he was replaced by Jim Powers. He couldn't take the grueling road schedule anymore and missed being with his family. He was supposed to work against Shawn Michaels for Raw TV on 1/11 but was replaced by Max Moon. The most logical future for him would be Smoky Mountain Wrestling and once again team with Tracy Smothers as the Young Pistols.

Max Moon worked out any problems there were between him and the WWF and returns full-time on 1/14 in Dallas, TX and will be taking all of Lance Cassidy's dates. Moon will be in the Royal Rumble, as his match with Taylor was scrapped.

Crush (Bryan Adams) has been pulled from all his scheduled dates after 1/11 because he will be selling an injury that they are going to say is a result from the attack they taped on 12/14 in Green Bay, WI where Doink the Clown beat on Crush with a phony arm that he had holding in a sling. Crush did a stretcher job and he is now being given a vacation for a long time, as he won't be back before March, if that. They will be having Kamala, Typhoon, and others on various house shows replacing him and he will not be in the Royal Rumble. The angle is expected to air over the weekend of 1/16.

Doink the Clown (Big Josh-Matt Borne) is going to be given a big push and is being shown almost every week on TV. He has many title matches at house shows coming up in late February as he will be challenging Bret Hart. Those matches will be headlining one team up until Wrestlemania.

Double Trouble (Tony & Val Puccio- formerly The Undertakers from IWCCW) missed all of their scheduled dates where they

were supposed to work against The Steiners because of medical reasons that pertain to Val. Their contracts were renewed for another six months, though, but only with sporadic dates.

The NAPTE Convention will take place in San Francisco, CA on 1/26 to 1/28 and representing the WWF will be Bret Hart, Undertaker, Paul Bearer, Mr. Perfect, Tatanka, Randy Savage, Jim Duggan, Bushwhackers, Gene Okerlund, Bobby Heenan, and on the first day, they'll have a live match with High Energy vs Beverly Brothers. At the TV convention last year, McMahon's main focus was on the representation of the WBF and trying to get TV for the now bankrupt bodybuilding group. However, this year he should be focusing on keeping the WWF on TV.

In a press conference at Madison Square Garden on 12/29, Vince McMahon announced that the WWF will be donating all the proceeds from the 1/29 MSG show toward the relief effort in Somalia through the Red Cross Operation Hope in Somalia. They have announced a loaded card for 1/29 with Bam Bam Bigelow vs Bret Hart, Ric Flair (Bobby Heenan in his corner) vs Mr. Perfect, Shawn Michaels vs Bob Backlund, IRS vs Undertaker, Ted DiBiase vs Randy Savage, Razor Ramon vs Big Bossman, Papa Shango vs Terry Taylor, Beverlys vs Steiners, Damian Demento vs Tatanka, Headshrinkers vs Duggan & Virgil, and Skinner vs Tito Santana. Gene Okerlund and Slick will also appear. Phil Mushnick of The New York Post, who intensely reported on the scandals with the WWF earlier this year, has stated that he will be closely investigating the WWF's donation claim.

After the Royal Rumble, Sensational Sherri will be in Marty Jannetty's corner at the houses and when Shawn Michaels is booked against Mr. Perfect for several shows in February, she will be in Perfect's corner. They are beginning to hype her return at the Rumble and saying that she'll be at ringside, and she'll windup with Jannetty.

Expect WWF Champion Bret Hart to appear on Regis & Kathie Lee and The Arsenio Hall show 1/18-1/20 to pump up the Royal Rumble...Hulk Hogan appeared on the Nashville Network's Crook and Chase show on 1/4 to push his new movie "Mr. Nanny" which opens in Nashville on 1/15. It won't be a nationally released film...The WWF lost its TV in Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Netherlands and are losing it in Japan..."WWF Mania," the new Saturday morning show was originally going to be called "Slam and Jam," but WCW got their album "Slam Jam I" trademarked first. Also, the WWF's album "Slam Jam" was changed to "WWF Slam"...The Rumble in Sacramento is almost sold out... Cheetah Kid (Ted Petty) was looked at and they were thinking about putting the Max Moon gimmick on him, but Paul Diamond's future is uncertain right now. He appeared at the Raw taping on 1/11 and was supposed to talk to JJ Dillon about plans... Boss Hog Calhoun has been telling everybody that he's signed a deal with Titan and that he's going to be a heel Hillbilly Jim character, but he'd been telling everybody that he was related to Haystacks Calhoun, which is not true...Bret Hart is still trying to get Johnny Smith a job, but so far he has only had a tryout at the tapings in October. There was a lot of talk that Vince wanted Smith to do a British Bulldog type gimmick.

WWF at the Frank Erwin Center in Austin, TX on 1/6 with about 2,800: Virgil beat Brooklyn Brawler. Headshrinkers beat High Energy. Tatanka beat Damian Demento. Bob Backlund pinned Berzerker. Shawn Michaels pinned Marty Jannetty. Undertaker beat Papa Shango. Bret Hart pinned Ric Flair.

WWF at the Spectrum in Philadelphia, PA on 1/8 with about 8,000: Virgil pinned Brooklyn Brawler. Steiner Brothers beat Executioners (Dwayne Gill & Barry Hardy - Lords of Darkness). Tatanka pinned Damian Demento. Bob Backlund pinned Berzerker. Shawn Michaels pinned Marty Jannetty. Headshrinkers beat High Energy when Fatu pinned Koko B. Ware. Undertaker pinned Papa Shango. Bret Hart pinned Ric Flair with a small package.

WWF at the Civic Arena in Pittsburgh, PA on 1/8 with about 6,000: Crush beat Skinner. Terry Taylor beat Jim Powers. Bam Bam Bigelow beat Typhoon with a headbutt off the top rope. Money Inc beat Nasty Boys when IRS pinned Sags. Tito Santana beat Repo Man. Yokozuna beat Big Bossman in 5:02 with the sit down splash off the middle rope. Mr. Perfect beat Razor Ramon by countout.

WWF at the Meadowlands Arena in East Rutherford, NJ on 1/9 with about 7,500: Virgil beat Brawler. Steiners beat Executioners. Tatanka beat Demento. Backlund beat Berzerker. Michaels beat Jannetty. Headshrinkers beat High Energy. Yokozuna pinned Big Bossman. Mr. Perfect beat Razor Ramon by countout.

WWF at the Boston Garden in Boston, MA on 1/9 with about 7,000: Taylor beat Joey Knight. Crush beat Skinner. Money Inc beat Nasty Boys. Hart beat Flair in a one hour marathon match by scoring 3 pins to Flair's 2. Bigelow beat Typhoon. Undertaker beat Shango.

WWF at the Agricultural Hall in Allentown, PA on 1/9 with about 3,000: Jim Powers beat Mike Sharpe. Cheetah beat Johnny Rotten. Steiners beat Executioners. Backlund beat Berzerker. Tatanka beat Demento. Perfect beat Ramon by countout.

WWF at the Beeghly Center in Youngstown, OH on 1/10 with about 3,400: Taylor beat Powers. Crush beat Brawler. Backlund

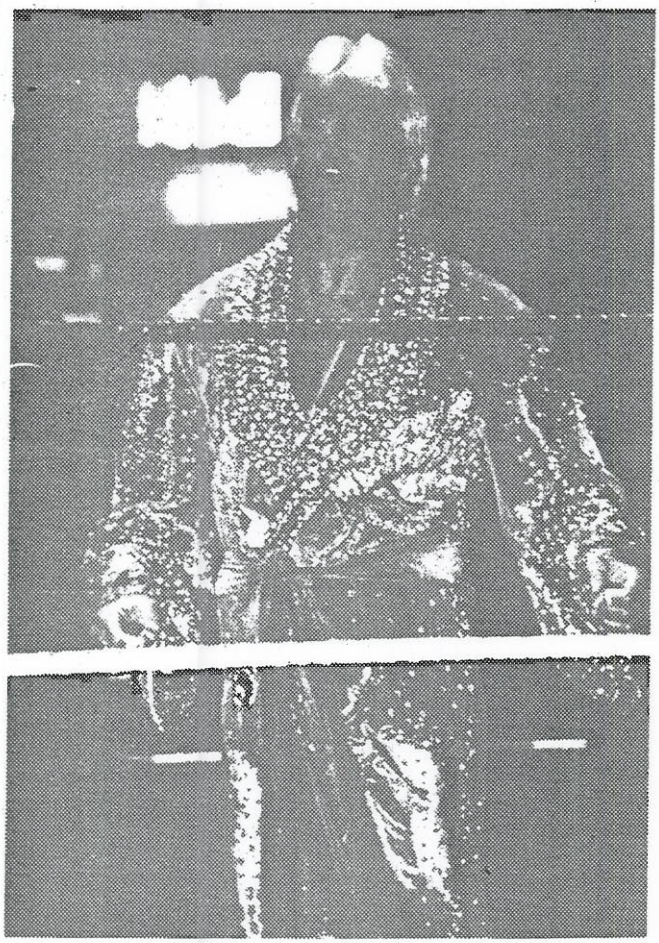
beat Berzerker. Mr. Perfect beat Razor Ramon by countout. Bam Bam Bigelow beat Bossman. Money Inc beat Nasty Boys. Underbeat Berzerker. Mr. Perfect beat Razor Ramon by countout. Bam Bam Bigelow beat Big Bossman. Money Inc beat Nasty Boys. The Undertaker beat Yokozuna by DQ in 3:09 when he threw salt.

WWF at the Manhattan Center in New York, NY on 1/11 with 1,000 (600 paid): Backlund beat Demento by DQ. Cheetah beat Rotten. Yokozuna beat Koko Ware. Steiners beat Executioners. Michaels beat Max Moon. Undertaker beat Demento. Yokozuna beat Powers. Santana beat Sharpe. Crush beat Bigelow by DQ when Doink interfered and tripped Crush.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING

RIC FLAIR IS COMING HOME! After being employed by the World Wrestling Federation and Titan Sports since September of 1991 (about sixteen months), Richard Fliehr, 43, is returning to World Championship Wrestling in February 1993 in a year that marks his 20th year in professional wrestling. Flair reached an agreement with WCW in the middle of last week and the deal will be a "done deal" when he signs the contract this Tuesday (1/12) in Atlanta, GA. According to four WCW sources, he will be signing a guaranteed contract for three years, earning an estimated $350,000-$400,000 per year. He is departing on good terms with the WWF and Vince McMahon, who agreed to release him from his contract with Titan, which wouldn't have expired until late August/early September this year. He will work all of his scheduled bookings through 2/10, which includes the Royal Rumble PPV and the European tour that will culminate in Dortmund, Germany on 2/10, which will be Flair's final show with the WWF. He will start with WCW on 2/15 and will appear on the 2/21 Superbrawl PPV in Asheville, NC. There was word that they wanted to somehow involve Flair in the Windham vs Great Muta match for the NWA title, but that is strictly speculation at this point. He will be coming in as a face and will most likely be involved in programs with Rude, Windham, and possibly Vader. One current WWF employee who knew Flair well stated that, "Ric's been very unhappy for a while now, I believe since November he hasn't been happy. He really didn't go around and tell everybody that he wanted to get out of the WWF, but you could tell that he just wasn't the same person. He got along with everybody great, though. He was a super guy to work with. He was the kind of guy who no matter how he was feeling, was always polite and helpful to everybody. I think it may be pride in one's job in Ric's case. I don't think it was the money that was a problem, I think it was the respect he had for himself and the pride in his work that made him do what he did. That is something that is so rare in this sport today, a guy who cares about his job. If we had more guys in this sport like him, it would be a lot cleaner and healthier business. Now they're going to push Matt (Doink the Clown) up on the cards to the top, and he hasn't even wrestled. All you see him doing is popping kids' balloons and spraying people with water, is that what you have to do to be on top. Ric is still one of the best in our sport and to move him down to push a clown, that's insane, and I can understand just from that why Ric would want to leave." It was apparent that there had been several discussions between Flair and McMahon in the last month about Flair getting a release from the company, but no agreement had been reached until last week. There were sources in the WWF that stated Flair had quit once or twice, but was talked into staying. As McMahon granted Flair a release, he told Flair that he would be welcomed back anytime he wished to come back in the future. It appears as though Flair was going to be moved down on the card from main event status, which would mean a pay cut, according to the way the salaries work now. Therefore, the figure he will be making with WCW is probably more money than he would have been able to make with the WWF. While they're are some wrestlers in WCW who might be upset about Flair getting a guaranteed contract because of the total elimination of those by Bill Watts, the general feeling amongst all the boys is that they are psyched about his return. This is the spark that WCW is desperately in need of. After being gone for over 18 months from WCW, Ric Flair's name has still been heard on every 900 line call, TV PPV, and house show since his departure. Some of Flair's historic matches that have recently been shown on The Main Event can claim the reason for WCW's recent high ratings on that show. Looking back over everything, WCW has been falling apart piece by piece ever since that historic day in early July when Flair was fired by Jim Herd.

*****Ric Flair signed the contract in Bill Watts' office late Tuesday afternoon (1/12).*****



Davey Boy Smith received his release from the WWF and will be starting up with WCW on 2/15 and it is not known at this time how many dates he has signed for or whether he will work full-time there. The release from the WWF stated that he can't use the name the British Bulldog until October, but he will wrestle under "Davey Boy Smith, The British Bulldog" for WCW.

WCW taped two weeks of WCW Saturday Night at Center Stage in Atlanta on 1/11. These will air on 1/16 and 1/23. On the first show airing 1/16, Bill Watts came out at the beginning of the program and announced that he was stripping Rick Rude of his US title because he had failed to defend it within the last 60 days, since November 14. The match between Steamboat and Rhodes that was going to decide the #1 contender for the US title was now going to be for the vacant belt. In that final match of the tourney, Dustin Rhodes beat Rick Steamboat by countout. There was a ref bump and while the ref was down, Barry Windham came out and DDTed Steamboat on the floor, and the ref counted Steamboat out when he got up. Rhodes had not seen Windham come out as he was laying in the ring, while Steamboat was on the floor. At the end of the program, Jim Ross interviewed Rhodes and showed him the replay where Windham had interfered. Rhodes then left saying that he had to go talk to Steamboat. In other matches taped for 1/16, Windham & Brian Pillman & Steve Austin beat Johnny B. Badd & Brad Armstrong & 2 Cold Scorpio when Windham pinned Armstrong after a DDTplex in a great match. Cactus Jack beat Paul Orndorff by DQ when Vader interfered, but Barbarian made the save and the four had a brawl. In his WCW debut, Chris Benoit beat Marcus Bagwell in a good match and they worked really good together. Vinnie Vegas once again challenged Van Hammer to an arm-wrestling match. Max Pain (Darryl Peterson) debuted and worked a squash. The Wrecking Crew of Al Greene (Rage) and Marc Laurinaitis (Fury) also worked a squash. On the show airing 1/23, Bagwell & Badd beat Scotty Flamingo & Bob Cook when Bagwell pinned Cook. Windham was interviewed about his 2/21 match at Superbrawl against The Great Muta for the NWA title, but he asked to stop it after a minute and a half, and they did not retake (if they did) it in front of the fans. Bill Watts came out and said that Rude had refused to give up the US title and that was his explanation as to why Rhodes won't wear the belt on TV for the next two weeks. Benoit beat Johnny Rich with his finisher, the German suplex into a bridge. In an underdog challenge, Robb Van Damme beat Pat Rose and looked good and got over. Vader & Orndorff beat Johnny Gunn & Z-Man when Vader pinned Gunn after the powerbomb (almost a squash). Windham pinned Scorpio in a great match after his DDTplex. In a tag match, Cactus Jack & Barbarian beat Shanghai Pierce & Tex Slashinger when Cactus pinned Slashinger. It was supposed to be Sting & Ron Simmons vs Slashinger & Pierce, but it was changed that night for whatever reason. In the last match, Rhodes wrestled Steamboat to a ten minute time limit draw in a rematch that Rhodes granted Rick. Steamboat wore the tag team belt and this will air after the 1/13 Clash.

Rick Rude is being replaced everywhere by Paul Orndorff and they are hoping Rude will be back by March 1. He suffered a legit neck injury and was checked out by a neuro surgeon and is currently recuperating.

Five shows of WCW Pro Wrestling were taped on 1/5 at the Georgia Mountains Center in Gainesville, GA in front of about 1,500 fans. In a dark match, 2 Cold Scorpio battled Barbarian to a ten minute time limit draw. The Wrecking Crew (Al Greene & Marc Laurinaitis) worked a squash match in their debut. In other highlights from the taping, Erik Watts beat Rip Rogers by submission with the STF, Marcus Bagwell & Brad Armstrong beat Brian Pillman & Steve Austin by DQ, Scotty Flamingo beat Joey Maggs, Tex Slashinger & Shanghai Pierce beat Johnny Gunn & Tom Zenk, and Barry Windham beat Rick Steamboat. They had a series of matches that spread out over the five shows involving Big Van Vader, Barbarian, Paul Orndorff, and Cactus Jack. In the first match, Barbarian & Jack battled Vader & Orndorff to a double-DQ. On the next show, Vader & Orndorff beat Jack & Barbarian when Orndorff pinned Jack after a knee of the top rope. Then, Cactus vs Orndorff went to a double-countout with Jack as the face, which got over. After the match, Vader attacked Cactus and splashed him several times. The finale to all this was Vader pinning Barbarian in their match. WCW aired the Cactus Jack vs Paul Orndorff match and the post match attack on the 1/12 Main Event and from it they decided that Orndorff would replace the injured Rick Rude at the Clash of the Champions on 1/13. From all indications, that match was where Cactus made his face turn and will obviously have an ensuing feud with Orndorff and Vader.

Eddie Gilbert joins WCW's booking committee this or next week and will most likely manage or wrestle in the very near future as well...Sting vs Big Van Vader headlines the Europe tour coming up in March...There was talk that a tournament for the TV title would begin in February, but nothing has been finalized...Bob Dhue brought in a friend and made him the event coordinator, replacing Gary Juster, who is now in promotions...Van Hammer is suffering from a hernia, but they expect him to be back in a couple weeks...The 1/13 Clash will have a few changes. Vinnie Vegas will arm-wrestle Tony Atlas. In the main event cage match, Cactus Jack will replace Van Hammer. No word on whether Ron Simmons will be there or not.. Terry Funk had been negotiating with WCW for a long while now for him to return their with a full-time schedule. But at the last minute, Funk pulled out of the deal because what they wanted to do with him wasn't in his best interests...The Rock "N" Roll Express are coming in to work mainly on TV, but will also work many house shows.

WCW at the Municipal Auditorium in New Orleans, LA on 1/10: Cactus Jack pinned Brad Armstrong. Erik Watts beat Tony Atlas with the STF. 2 Cold Scorpio pinned Scotty Flamingo. Barry Windham pinned Dustin Rhodes after hitting him with his boot. Sting pinned Paul Orndorff after a belly to belly suplex. Big Van Vader pinned Ron Simmons. Shane Douglas & Rick Steamboat beat Steve Austin & Brian Pillman when Dragon pinned Pillman.

WCW Clash of the Champions at the Mecca Arena in Milwaukee, WI on 1/13: Cactus Jack beat Johnny B. Badd. 2 Cold Scorpio beat Scotty Flamingo. Chris Benoit beat Brad Armstrong. The Wrecking Crew beat Tom Zenk & Johnny Gunn. Rick Steamboat & Shane Douglas beat Brian Pillman & Barry Windham and Douglas was attacked after the match and juiced. Vinnie Vegas beat Tony Atlas in arm wrestling. Sting & Dustin Rhodes & Cactus Jack (who came in near the end) beat Big Van Vader & Barry

Windham & Paul Orndorff when Cactus pinned Orndorff and Jack made his full face turn. Also, during a live interview before the cage match, team Vader turned on Barbarian.

THE INDEPENDENT SCENE

The Legends of Wrestling Fans Convention weekend will take place at the Philadelphia International Airport Radisson Hotel in Philadelphia, PA with the convention both days from 12-6 pm and the ECW/WWA card on the night of 1/23. Superstars lined up for the convention both days are "The Man Formerly Known as The Ultimate Warrior" Jim Hellwig, Sid Vicious, Road Warriors Hawk & Animal, Terry Funk, Kerry Von Erich, Woman, Kevin Sullivan, and Davey Boy Smith. Entrance tickets are $3 if ordered in advance and $5 at the door. Autographed color photos and Polaroids with the wrestlers are also available. The ECW/WWA card will take place on the night of 1/23 in the hotel with the main event being Eddie Gilbert vs Terry Funk in an I Quit match, WWA Champion Spider (managed by Dennis Coraluzzo) vs ECW Champion Sandman (managed by Tod Gordon), WWA Tag Team Champions Lords of Darkness vs ECW Tag Team Champions Super Destroyers, Davey Boy Smith vs Masked Superstar, Kevin Sullivan vs Wildman Sal Bellomo, and Tony Stetson vs Johnny Hotbody in a Bullrope Brass Knuckles match. For all information and to order tickets, call (215)244-9590.

Before about 54,000 fans at The Tokyo Egg Dome on 1/4, IWGP Champion Great Muta captured the NWA title from Masa Chono in a fantastic match, described as much better than their match at Starrcade. Also on the show, IWGP Tag Team Champions Hawk & Kensuke Sasaki (The Hell Raisers) wrestled Rick & Scott Steiner to a double-countout, Jushin Liger beat Ultimo Dragon to regain the IWGP Junior Heavyweight title, Ron Simmons beat Tony Halme, Sting beat Hiroshi Hase, Shinya Hashimoto & Masa Saito beat Dustin Rhodes & Scott Norton (Norton & Halme were the IWGP Tag Team Champions up until recently when they lost the belts to Sasaki & Hawk), Tatsumi Fujinami beat Takashi Ishikawa, and Genichiro Tenryu beat Riki Choshu. Several correspondents who attended the show said it as the best show out of the last three big annual shows there.

Jim "The Man Formerly Known as The Ultimate Warrior" Hellwig worked indie shows on 1/8 in Billerica, MA and on 1/9 in Hanover, MA as a favor to his friend Wendell Weatherbee. In both matches, he beat Hercules in front of sellouts. These All-Star Wrestling cards drew 1,300 in Billerica and 1,050 in Hanover. Several people in the dressing room described Jim Hellwig as being very kind to everyone and being very content and relaxed. Hellwig was very pleasant with his fans and even went through the crowd to greet them. Other matches that took place on both shows saw Rio (similar look like Hellwig) beat Demolition Ax and in a midgets handicap match, Tiger Jackson & Mr. Foo & Little Louie beat Mighty Doom & Irish Leprechaun.

The Dynamite Kid (Tommy Billington) returned to action last week winning a squash match. He is being called The British Bulldog #1 and has several other matches lined up. No word on whether this will be a long term situation or a short stint.

Walter "Killer" Kowalski (in his late 60s, one of the few in history to wrestle in six decades) worked against Nikolai Volkoff before about 1,100 fans on his IWF show in Westwood, MA on 1/9. Late last year in Japan, Kowalski worked against John Tolos in his first match in many, many years. Kowalski beat Volkoff in their match and Honky Tonk Man beat Tony Roy. Kowalski will return to action in March against Honky Tonk on the next IWF show in Gardner, MA.

Herb Abrams brought along Bruno Sammartino and Lou Albano last week when he visited The Paramount, a smaller facility in New York City that is next to Madison Square Garden. Herb is trying to get shows for his UWF booked there. WCW is also interested in running there.

The first NWCA convention will take place on 4/10 and 4/11 in Nashville, TN at the Music City Roadway Inn with over 30 stars including Ivan Koloff, Wahoo McDaniels, Jimmy Valiant, Bobby Fulton, Tommy Rich, Tracy Smothers, Candi Divine, Barry Horowitz, Pez Whatley, and The Fabulous Kangaroos (Don Kent & Al Costello). For info call Don Rowlett at (615)226-2180.

FLYER FAN FARE

In a correction from the last issue, the address to send letters to Joel Goodhart's current employer is William Low at PO Box 388, Fort Washington, PA 19034.

WRESTLING FLYER NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES- INTERVIEWS WITH: #4: Jerry Lawler, #5: Paul Roma and Johnny B. Badd, #6: Iron Sheik and Jimmy Snuka, #7: Bruno Sammartino, #8: Kerry Von Erich, #9: Sammartino, #10: Terry Taylor, #11: Hawk and Taylor, #12: Marty Jannetty, #13: Jannetty, #14: Road Warrior Animal, #15: Buddy Landell, #16: Davey Boy Smith and Paul Ellering, #17: Jake Roberts, #18: Roberts and Bill Watts. Each back issue is $2 ($3 out of US) and they can be ordered by sending the proper payment to the Flyer address.

In an effort to improve the quality of this newsletter, we would appreciate it if you could phone in a report of any live shows you attend within a day after the event is held, to our hotline, (215) 566-6590. And after you view any major event (PPVs, cable specials, etc), it would be appreciated if you could phone in your grade for the whole show: A (best) to F (worst), within a day after the event takes place. We would appreciate your help in these two important activities.

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